Evidence Synthesis in the Biological Sciences

Interview Ethics Letter

Dear [colleague/name],

You are invited to participate in the second phase of a study titled “Evidence Synthesis in the Biological Sciences.” The purpose of this study is to investigate how researchers as naturalists, ecologists, conservationists and biologists use evidence synthesis as a research tool.

The first phase of this study invited evidence synthesis researchers to complete a Qualtrics survey questionnaire on their perceptions of using this research methodology. You are invited to participate in the second phase of this study that includes a written invitation sent by email to review and discuss survey findings and provide further insights.

It is important to note that participation in this research study is voluntary. Participants are not compensated for their participation. Refusal to participate in any part of this study will involve no penalty and you may discontinue participation at any time by contacting the Principal Investigator.

Data collected because of interviews will be stripped of self-identifying and institutional identifying information. Individual participants will not be identified. Study co-investigators as graduate students will not have access to these emailing nor the identity of any participants. Participants will be assigned unique identifies e.g. Participant 1.

Benefits of this research study may involve participants becoming more knowledgeable about their comfort, confidence, and ability using evidence-based research methodologies. New knowledge created by this research study will be of interest to researchers and professional librarians serving in higher education. New graduate students as co-investigators will further their learning through this study and additionally gain a scholarly peer-review citation as co-authors.

Completed interviews will be returned to the Principal Investigator at your convenience. It is estimated that this exercise should take no more than 30 minutes to complete and forward results. Upon completion of this study and publication of a scholarly article all correspondence and interview data will be discarded.

If you have any questions about this study or require further information, please contact the Principal Investigator using the contact information provided. This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance by the Brock University Social Sciences Research Ethics Board file number 25-118 GORDON.

If you have any comments or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please contact your institutional ethics office and/or the Brock University Office of Research Ethics at (905) 688-5550 Ext. 3035, reb@brocku.ca.

Thank you, your participation is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.

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